



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/558,093 | 12/18/2006 | Woon Yong Lee | 9988.266.00 | 3421 |
| 30827 | 7590 | 04/28/2009 | EXAMINER | |
| MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP 1900 K STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006 | | | | GISSEL, GUNNAR J |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 2856 | | | | |
| | | MAIL DATE | | DELIVERY MODE |
| | | 04/28/2009 | | PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/558,093 | LEE, WOON YONG | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Gunnar J. Gissel | 2856 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 November 2008.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 3,5,6,8-11,13 and 15 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,3,5,6,8-11 and 13 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 November 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 3, 8-11, 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ambrosi (EP1,329,546) with teachings from Muther (DE19,841,372).

Regarding Claims 3, 8-10, Ambrosi discloses a float switch in a washing machine comprising: a switch body divided into two sides (Ambrosi, figure 3), having a floating portion for rising up of leaked washing water (Ambrosi, area occupied by float F), and a sensor space for mounting a sensor for sensing a level of the washing water in the floating portion (Ambrosi, sensor space defined by N), both formed therein; a float in the floating portion for floating on a surface of the washing water (Ambrosi, Float F); a sensor in the sensor space for measuring a height of the float (Ambrosi, Sensor M); and a water protector for preventing the washing water from infiltrating into the sensor space (Ambrosi, water protector N). Ambrosi further discloses that the water protector is a bracket at one of the divided two sides of the switch body over the sensor space to cover a joining surface of the divided two sides of the switch body from over the joining surface (Ambrosi, bracket N).

Ambrosi does not explicitly disclose a soft member connected between the two sides of the switch body, fastening means or a hook and a hook hole, or that the fastening means are formed over the sensor space.

Muther discloses a soft member connected between one sides of the switch body divided into two sides (Muther, soft member 2) and at least one fastening means for fastening the switch body (Muther, fastening means 5) and that the fastening means includes; a hook at one of sides of the switch body divided into two sides, and a hook hole opposite to the hook for receiving and holding the hook (Muther, hook and hook hole 5) and at least one of the fastening means is formed over the sensor space (Muther, figure 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to combine Muther with teachings from Ambrosi because use of a hinge and hook to snap two halves of a casting together makes it considerably easier to cast and assemble an object, as is widely known in the art of plastic castings (for example, the air intake on a Porsche 944, designed in the late 70's).

Regarding Claim 5, Ambrosi discloses that the bracket has a "L" shape (Ambrosi, bracket N).

Regarding Claim 6, Ambrosi discloses that the floating portion has openings in a side surface for flowing in of the washing water (Ambrosi, figure 3).

Regarding Claims 11, 13-15, Ambrosi discloses a float switch in a washing machine comprising: a switch body divided into two sides (Ambrosi, figure 1), having a floating portion for rising up of leaked washing water (Ambrosi, space occupied by floating portion F), and a sensor space for mounting a sensor for sensing a level of the washing water in the floating portion (Ambrosi, sensor space formed by N), both formed therein; a float in the floating portion for floating on a surface of the washing water

(Ambrosi, float F); and a sensor in the sensor space for measuring a height of the float (Ambrosi, sensor M), wherein one of the two sides of the switch body includes a portion over the sensor space extended to cover a portion of the other side of the switch body over the sensor space (Ambrosi, cover N).

Ambrosi does not explicitly disclose a soft member connected between the two sides of the switch body, fastening means or a hook and a hook hole, or that the fastening means are formed over the sensor space.

Muther discloses a soft member connected between one sides of the switch body divided into two sides (Muther, soft member 2) and at least one fastening means for fastening the switch body (Muther, fastening means 5) and that the fastening means includes; a hook at one of sides of the switch body divided into two sides, and a hook hole opposite to the hook for receiving and holding the hook (Muther, hook and hook hole 5) and at least one of the fastening means is formed over the sensor space (Muther, figure 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to combine Muther with teachings from Ambrosi because use of a hinge and hook to snap two halves of a casting together makes it considerably easier to cast and assemble an object, as is widely known in the art of plastic castings (for example, the air intake on a Porsche 944, designed in the late 70's).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 11/26/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that a bracket at one of the divided two sides of the

switch body over the sensor space to cover a joining surface of the divided two sides of the switch body from over the joining surface. The examiner contends that Ambrosi's cover N constitutes such a feature, but even if Ambrosi's cover N does not constitute such a feature Muther's element 5 constitutes a bracket that at one of the divided two sides of the switch body over the sensor space to cover a joining surface of the divided two sides of the switch body from over the joining surface. Ambrosi's cover N is at one of the divided two sides of the switch body, where the sides are defined by division H and cover N covers a joining surface of the divided two sides, as the surface that cover N covers is joined both by bolts S and G, as well as the structure of the switch shown in figure 3 and cover N is over the sensor space, as shown in figure 3. Further more, if combined with Muther's invention of a snap together sensor cover N would cover the seam.

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gunnar J. Gissel whose telephone number is (571)270-3411. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 7:30AM-5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on (571)272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/GJG/

4/3/2009

Art Unit: 2856

/Hezron Williams/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2856